the BLACKSTONE
10¢
MAGICIAN
DETECTIVE
SEPT.
NO. 4
I-MUST-KILL-YOU... I-MUST!
RHODA! DON'T YOU KNOW ME? IT'S BLACKSTONE! RHODA! WHAT HAS HE DONE TO YOU -- RHODA! DON'T PRESS THAT TRIGGER!
GOOD HEAVENS! THE GIRL IS HYPNOTIZED!
THAT'S IT... NOW... NOW... THE TRIGGER... SQUEEZE IT!

Sportsman AIR PISTOL

AIR PISTOL — Sorry, No C.O.D.s — $3.49 — 3 for $9.50 — Orders at These Cash Prices

AT LAST—$3 AIR PISTOL AT A LOW PRICE. Sensational offer for those who want the thrill of shooting a real AIR PISTOL at a LOW PRICE. Sportsman sticker INDOORS or OUTDOORS. A great gun that will give you hours and hours of fun. A BEAUTY IN LOOKS and a WONDER IN PERFORMANCE. Silent shooting—astonishingly so operate. Modeled to size of famous German Luger pistol. Low priced ammunition saves you expense. Learn to shoot safely—so you can use any object you do not want to hit.

Order direct from us by mail. Prompt delivery guaranteed for all supplies and gun.

Johnson Smith Co. Dept. C-1 Detroit Mich.

Shoots BB's, Steel Darts, Hard Hitting .177 Pellets

Shoots BB Steel Darts Pellets

Holster, 50c — $3.49 — Postpaid

IT SHOOTS ALL THREE—regular BB's, metal PELLETS or STEEL DARTS. It has a great variety of uses from ordinary target work to hitting objects. The darts can be used over and over again. Summer or winter, spring or fall—this gun will be YOUR EVER FAITHFUL COMPANION. Plenty of fun with this pistol!

Ruggedly Built, Full Size Gun, Modeled After Famous Target Pistol

Has first, single shot, manually operated, bolt action mechanism. Made short, 10" overall, for ease in handling. It's easy to shoot. No recoil. Plenty of ammunition from the large supply number and steel sights. Modeled after famous target pistol. Has tension adjusted gun. Sturdy diecast metal construction with machined steel operating parts for maximum accuracy. FULL SIZE GUN—OVER 2 INCHES LONG BY 6½ INCHES HIGH. Ideal sports or gift proposition. Order yours at once. Learn to shoot safely. Use your gun when you choose. Learn to shoot safely—so you can use any object you do not want to hit.

SPORTSMAN JR. 3-in-1 AIR PISTOL ONLY $3.49 EACH; 3 for $9.50

BB's, 3 pkgs. for 25c .177 Pellets, 500, $1.50 Steel Darts, pkg. 35c Paper Targets, 100 for 35c

SPARKLING Skull Ring — Skull & crossbones ring with brilliant simulated diamond & ruby eyes. Other styles available. Specify size. Hand Carved Genuine Black Bone Ring. Specify size. $1.98

.22 CALIBER RIFLE — ONLY $11.95

Low Priced Powerful Rifle for Hunting and Target Shooting

Wonderful, beautifully styled HIGH POWERED, HIGH ACCURACY .22 caliber rifle. Ideal for hunting and target shooting. Full length 19-inch barrel for maximum accuracy; has 39-inch overall length. Receiver grooved for tip-on scope mounting. Has rear sight adjustable for windage and elevation; ramp front sight. Has safety to prevent accidental discharge. Has hammer spur for ease in cocking for rapid fire shots. Has features of $25.00 rifle. Loads and fires standard .22 cal. bullets, long, long rifle or shorts. Shoots any of these interchangeably. You'll be proud to own and use this rifle. $11.95

MOTORSCOOTER PLANS — Easy to build as it is fun to ride. 50 m.p.h. 75 m. p. gal. Build with or without engine. Complete plans, parts list, sources of supply, special motor for motorscooter. Send for your plans today. $2.00

LIFE-LIKE REALISTIC RUBBER MASKS — Talk, Smoke, Smile, Drink With Mask On!

SENSATIONALLY REALISTIC! Really display marvelous workmanship! Made of durable rubber! Just put on and you're "home in the!" MASKS which seem to "come to life"! Comic Man, Old Lady, Mad Monkey. Price $2.95 each. Specify type: Glamour Girl, Monkey, Old Lady, Comic Man

Fencing Set

Learn to fence! Fight like the Three Musketeers! Set consists of 2 sabers with protective guards, 2 masks, 2 pairs of gloves, instructions on how to fence. Teaches you to think of the other fellow's moves. Sabers are equipped with hand guard and metal tip. Specify set. Set of 2 Foils and Instructions, Price $2.50

POWERFUL TELESCOPE — Sky Explorer Or Street — See objects 250 miles away! Has 3 power lenses which bring 250 times nearer and nearer — 3 times more powerful than largest lens in opera glasses, movies or binoculars. Ideal for studying distant objects. Has 3 lenses, 1 eye piece, 1 sun filter, 1 erecting prism, 1 objective lens. Finished in black. Length 12 inches. Lens, 2½ inches. $3.98

250 Power Lens Kit — Finished Size 12 inches. Lenses are ground to give 250 power. Has 3 lenses, 1 eye piece, 1 sun filter, 1 erecting prism, 1 objective lens. Finished in black. Length 12 inches. Lens, 2½ inches. $3.98

ELECTRIC DETECTAPHONE OUTFIT — Use for public address system, intercom, detecting, recording, etc. Create spirit effects, amplify whispers, etc. $1.75

Midget Electric Motor DRIVES BOATS, CARS, PLANES & MODELS — Sensational midget, powerful motor. Operates on 3 to 6 volts. Simple, powerful. Do not confuse with toy motors. Ideal for boats, cars, planes, models, etc. Runs on flashlight cells. Same motors used in expensive models. Has 2 speeds, forward and reverse. Complete with instructions, wire, switch, screwdriver. Easy to assemble all parts furnished. Specify 3 to 6 volt motor. Price $1.49

JACKPOT Machine Game — $1 — Press button, spin reels, watch them stop. Play against the house. Pull lever, watch reels spin. Hours of fun! Plays like real slot machine. Bells, Horseshoes, Fortune Dollars. $1.00

MILITARY RINGS — Massive, jumbo rings with raised insignia. Specify ring size. Navy $2.49, Army $2.95, Air Force $2.95, Marines $2.95, Medical $2.95, Dental $2.95, Engineer $2.95, Signal Corps $2.95, Chemical $2.95, Ordnance $2.95, Infantry $2.95, Artillery $2.95, Quartermaster $2.95, Military Police $2.95, Finance $2.95, Transportation $2.95, Chaplain $2.95, Specify ring size.

Silent Defender Ring — Wind up and watch it go! Actually protects you! Ring has a powerful, silent, electric motor. Turn knob on ring and it starts to vibrate. Vibrations are transmitted to your finger. Ring is silent. Only you feel vibrations. Ideal for protection. Specify size. $6.95

2-WAY WRIST RADIO — Receives regular broadcasts up to about 150 miles and actually transmits your voice to another wrist radio up to 1 mile away. Has built-in microphone and speaker. Complete with batteries, instructions. Not to be confused with toy radios. Receives & Transmits; Really Works

Really works. Waterproof crystal receiver. Combination radio receiver and telephonic transmitter with hookup wire. Use as telephone, intercom, detecting, recording, etc. Create spirit effects, amplify whispers, etc. Use for every day & vicinity use of telephone, etc., will bring distance in. Wonderful receiver. DICK TRACY THRU WRIST RADIO $3.98

SMOKES as IT SHOOTS!! — Sensational new gun that spits clouds of SMOKE as it SHOOTS! Looks like real gun. Shoots caps. Has realistic recoil. Ejects empty shells automatically. Makes automatic as fast as you can pull trigger. Loudest Automatic Repeating Cap Gun

Specialty built sound chamber gives each explosion a deafening report. Has safety lock. Uses standard caps. Length 9½". Weight 1 lb. Specify Repeating Cap Gun. 89c

Exploding Paper Caps — Use in any cap gun. Explode with a bang. Not available but we want express prepaid; shipping charges included $1.60

POCKET SIZE Portable RADIO — 4x6x1¼-in. NO BATTERIES—NO ELECTRICITY NEEDED. Uses Crystal detector. Brings in stations for miles and miles. Works anywhere, anytime. Needs no batteries, electricity or aerial. Operates on crystal detector. Complete with phone. Carry anywhere. Fascinating to operate. Crystal detector. Complete with phone. Carry anywhere. Fascinating to operate. $3.99

RADIO $1.49 — Uses No Batteries — Connect to set with wire. Then set will bring in stations for miles and miles. Works anywhere, anytime. Needs no batteries, electricity or aerial. Operates on crystal detector. Complete with phone. Carry anywhere. Fascinating to operate. $1.49

BROADCAST THRU YOUR RADIO — Broadcast your voice on programs coming through your radio set. Simply connect to microphone jack of broadcasting set, write crackly, "Hello, Grandma" or "Hello, Mother" make especially for home broadcasting. Plugs into any set with microphone jack. Has 6 ft. cord with plug. Specify set. Radio 'Mike' $1.00

Electric Baseball Game — Miracle Light Lights Up Without Wires! — Lights up in your room, in closets, in cellar, in garage, in attic, in barn, in shop, in trunk, in basement, in garage, in attic, in barn, in shop, in trunk, in basement, in garage, in attic, in barn, in shop, in trunk, in basement

BLACKSTONE the MAGICIAN

NOW YOU SEE THEM—NOW YOU DON'T! *BLACKSTONE* PLAYS A GRIM GAME OF MAGIC TO FIGHT THE MENACE OF... "THE BORDER SMUGGLERS!"

2825

BLACKSTONE AND RHODA BRENT ARRIVE IN THE BORDER TOWN OF EL MORRO, WHERE BLACKSTONE IS TO APPEAR WITH HIS SHOW...

WHAT A *SLEEPY* TOWN THIS IS! DO YOU THINK *ANYBODY* WILL HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO COME TO THE SHOW?

IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY! WE'D BETTER FIND OUT HOW MUCH ADVERTISING THE THEATRE HAS DONE!

I LIKE THE WORD "*DEAD!*" EVERYBODY AROUND EL MORRO LOOKS *DEAD* ALREADY!

THIS POSTER *GIVES ME AN IDEA*, RHODA... LET'S GET OVER TO THE THEATRE AND TALK TO THE MANAGER ABOUT IT!

THERE IS NO WAY TO ADVERTISE THE SHOW, BLACKSTONE! NOBODY IN EL MORRO KNOWS WHAT A MAGIC SHOW IS LIKE!
GET THE LOCAL RADIO TO ANNOUNCE THAT I WILL PRODUCE THE WANTED SMUGGLERS IN THE MARIMBA THEATRE!
AT THE OFFICE OF THE THEATRE MANAGER...
BUT.. NOBODY KNOWS WHO THESE SMUGGLERS ARE... OR WHERE! THEY DISAPPEAR LIKE RABBITS!
MY BUSINESS IS MAKING THINGS LIKE RABBITS APPEAR FROM ANYWHERE! HIRE AN AIRPLANE TO DROP LEAFLETS, TELLING ALL ABOUT MY SHOW!
STAGE ENTRANCE
BUT WHY SHOULD WE BE GETTING READY FOR A SHOW? WE AREN'T GIVING ONE THIS AFTERNOON!
WE A'RE GIVING A SHOW, RHODA, BUT NOT IN THE THEATRE! I WANT TO SHOW THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN THE SORT OF MAGIC I CAN DO!
NEWS FLASH! BLACKSTONE ANNOUNCES THAT HE WILL PRODUCE THE SMUGGLERS ON THE STAGE OF THE MARIMBA THEATRE..
THIS BLACKSTONE MUST THINK HE'S A MAGICIAN!
HERE'S OUR FIRST AUDIENCE, RHODA!
I'M BLACKSTONE, AND BEING A MAGICIAN IS MY BUSINESS... IF YOU WANT TO SEE HOW I PRODUCE THINGS, HERE ARE A FEW SAMPLES!
...LIKE THIS!
.. AND LIKE THESE!
SQUAWWKKK!
EES HOT!
2

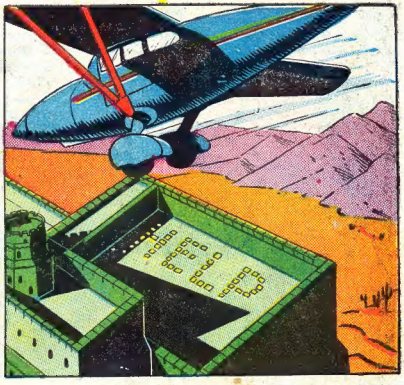
OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE TO PRODUCE EVERYTHING FROM NOWHERE WHEN PEOPLE CARRY RABBITS AROUND IN THEIR HATS!
BUT...BUT...
MAYBE YOU THINK YOU CAN PRODUCE THE SMUGGLERS, BUT, HOW CAN YOU GUESS WHERE THEY GO IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I KNOW ALL THE TRICKS OF DISAPPEARANCE, TOO! TAKE THIS MILK FOR INSTANCE! I'LL POUR IT IN THIS PAPER CONE!
...AND LET YOU FIGURE WHERE IT WENT! UNTIL YOU SOLVE THE MILK TRICK, DON'T ARGUE ABOUT SMUGGLERS!
AND NOW, WHAT?
CARRY THIS STUFF BACKSTAGE IN THE THEATRE, WHILE I TALK TO THE MANAGER ABOUT THE AIRPLANE!
...AND, TODAY, AN AIRPLANE'LL DROP LEAFLETS, TELLING ALL ABOUT BLACKSTONE'S GREAT MAGIC SHOW!
GREAT WORK, BLACKSTONE... EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT YOUR MAGIC, SO, THE SMUGGLERS MUST BE WORRIED! THE PLANE WILL BE AT THE AIRPORT IN A FEW HOURS! BY THE WAY...THIS IS RODERICK CROYDON, WHO OWNS CASTLE EL MORRO!
WHERE IS CASTLE EL MORRO?
I'LL SHOW YOU!
THAT'S CASTLE EL MORRO! I INTEND TO MAKE A WINTER HOTEL OUT OF IT...BUT, THERE'S NO USE WHILE THESE MYSTERIOUS SMUGGLERS ARE SCARING PEOPLE OUT OF TOWN!
SO, I'VE AGREED TO DOUBLE THAT REWARD, IF ANY-ONE CATCHES THE SMUGGLERS!
COME QUICK! NOW IS OUR CHANCE TO CAPTURE THE GIRL WHILE BLACKSTONE IS BUSY!
3

WHAT A CLIMB! THIS TOWN IS ALL HILLS THAT SEEM TO GO STRAIGHT UP!
HERE'S THE GIRL. NOW / I'LL HIDE IN THIS BARREL! YOU GO INTO THE BUSHES TILL I CALL!
MEANWHILE
OF COURSE, YOU ARE TRYING TO FIND THESE SMUGGLERS BY SCARING THEM INTO HIDING, OR OUT OF IT, BLACKSTONE! NOW, YOUR NEXT STEP SHOULD BE...
MY NEXT STEP IS TO SEND THOSE LEAFLETS OVER TO THE AIRPORT! I'LL SEE YOU LATER, MR. CROYDON!
AT THIS EXACT MOMENT...
EEK! ONE OF THE SMUGGLERS!
MORE OF THEM! I'M TRAPPED!
BLACKSTONE!
THIS CALLS FOR SOME FAST ACTION!
...STARTING WITH THIS FELLOW!
MAKE A QUICK JUMP! THIS WAY, RHODA!
SAY, YOU REALLY STARTED THINGS ROLLING!
4

BUT, AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHASE THOSE SMUGGLERS?
NATURALLY NOT! WE CAN'T PROVE THEY'RE SMUGGLERS, AND IF THEY ARE, THERE MAY BE TOO MANY OTHERS AROUND! SINCE THEY WERE AFTER YOU, I'M GOING TO SEND YOU WHERE THEY WON'T LOOK FOR YOU!
HOP IN THERE AND STAY PUT, UNTIL YOU'RE UP IN THE AIR... THAT WILL GET YOU OUT OF EL MORRO!
BETTER PUT A LABEL ON TOP, SAYING THIS SIDE UP!
THE TRUCKERS ARE READY FOR THE LEAFLETS, BLACKSTONE!
HERE THEY ARE, THREE BOXLOADS OF THEM!
THIS SIDE UP
THIS SIDE UP
WELL, BLACKSTONE, THERE GO YOUR LEAFLETS TO THE AIRPORT! NOW, WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME TRICKS TOGETHER AND COME UP TO THE CASTLE WITH ME? YOU CAN DO A SPECIAL SHOW FOR SOME OF MY FRIENDS, SO THEY TOO, CAN TELL PEOPLE HOW GOOD YOUR MAGIC IS!
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, CROYDON!
WHAT SORT OF PLACE IS THE CASTLE, CROYDON?
IT USED TO BE A SPANISH CITADEL! IT HAS A COURTYARD, WHERE YOU CAN GIVE YOUR SHOW! IT ALSO CONTAINS DUNGEONS WHERE THEY USED TO KEEP PRISONERS! THE DUNGEONS WILL INTEREST YOU, BLACKSTONE!
HERE'S THE COURTYARD, BUT, YOU CAN UNPACK YOUR MAGIC LATER! SUPPOSE WE GO AND SEE THE DUNGEONS!
NOT YET! FIRST, TELL YOUR FRIENDS THAT I AM HERE! MEANTIME, I'LL ARRANGE THESE CHAIRS SO THEY CAN SEE THE SHOW PROPERLY!
WE TRIED TO GRAB THE GIRL, CHIEF, BUT BLACKSTONE RESCUED HER!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE DON'T NEED TO HOLD HER PRISONER TO MAKE BLACKSTONE FORGET ABOUT THAT REWARD! WE'VE GOT BLACKSTONE RIGHT HERE!
5

IF CROYDON'S FRIENDS ARE WHO I THINK THEY ARE, THEY WON'T CARE ABOUT WATCHING A SHOW! JUST THE SAME, I'LL FIX THESE CHAIRS FOR THEM!
AH! YOU HAVE EVERYTHING READY FOR THE SHOW NOW. YOU CAN COME AND SEE THE DUNGEONS!
COMING RIGHT AWAY, CROYDON!
VERY INTERESTING, ...THESE OLD CHAINS USED ON PRISONERS!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TRY THEM! GRAB HIM, MEN!
GET THOSE CUFFS CLAMPED ON HIS WRISTS! THEN HE'LL NEED MORE THAN MAGIC TO GET LOOSE!
YOU WON'T GET TO THE THEATRE TONIGHT, BLACKSTONE! PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE A FAKE, JUST LIKE THE CLAIMS YOU MADE THAT YOU COULD CATCH US!
LET'S WAIT AND FIND OUT, MR. CHIEF SMUGGLER!
MEANWHILE, THE PLANE IS READY TO TAKE OFF FROM THE LOCAL AIRPORT..
THE LEAFLETS ARE ALL IN THOSE BOXES!
OKAY! I'LL OPEN THEM AND START DROPPIN' 'EM SOON'S I GET OVER THE CITY!
WHO ARE YOU?
JUST A VOLUNTEER HELPER! YOU RUN THE PLANE AND I'LL DROP THE PROGRAMS TO THE PUBLIC!
6

IT'S NO USE TOSSING THEM OUT HERE! IT'S JUST THE CASTLE! WAIT! LOOK DOWN THERE!



BLACKSTONE MUST HAVE GONE TO THE CASTLE AND ARRANGED THAT SIGNAL! IF HE WANTS HELP, WE'D BETTER BRING IT!
DON'T GET EXCITED, LADY! THERE'S A BUNCH OF RANGERS OUT LOOKING FOR SMUGGLERS! WE'LL TELL THEM ALL ABOUT IT!

...AND I THINK BLACKSTONE MUST HAVE ARRANGED THE SIGNAL!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO FIXED IT! HELP MEANS HELP IN THIS COUNTRY! GET EVERYBODY STARTED TO CASTLE EL MORRO!
RIGHT AWAY, CAPTAIN!

HEY, CHIEF! THE RANGERS ARE COMING UP THE HILL!
THEY MUST HAVE FOUND OUT SOMETHING! CALL ALL HANDS TO STOP THEM!
..NOW TO GET LOOSE FROM THIS! FIRST... ONE ARM OVER THE HEAD...

...AND THAT GIVES ME SLACK... ENOUGH TO TURN AROUND NOW, TO LIFT THOSE RINGS FROM THOSE HOOKS...

...LIKE THIS!
HEY! BLACKSTONE IS LOOSE! STOP HIM!

THERE'S ONE DOWN!
...ANOTHER! AND NOW FOR CROYDON!
IF I CAN LIGHT THAT FUSE, I'LL BLAST THOSE RANGERS BEFORE THEY REACH THE GATE!
THIS BRACELET MAKES A GOOD NECKLACE, CROYDON! ONLY MAYBE YOU WON'T APPRECIATE ITS BEAUTY!
YOU SEE, CAPTAIN? IT WAS BLACKSTONE'S SIGNAL!
YOU'LL FIND CROYDON AND HIS PALS LYING AROUND, CAPTAIN! YOU GATHER THEM WHILE I'M GETTING LOOSE FROM THESE CUFFS!
NICE WORK, BLACKSTONE!
BUT, HOW DID YOU GUESS THAT CROYDON WAS THE RINGLEADER?
HE TRIED TO KEEP ME BUSY, WHILE HIS GANG WAS GRABBING YOU! WHEN HE WANTED ME TO COME UP HERE, I KNEW IT WAS A TRAP. BUT I FIGURED I'D FIND A WAY TO BREAK IT, AND I DID!
AND SO, THAT NIGHT AT THE THEATRE ...
...AND TO BEGIN MY SHOW, AS ADVERTISED, I FIRST PRODUCE THE BORDER SMUGGLERS, RODERICK CROYDON AND HIS GANG!
HURRAY FOR BLACKSTONE!
THAT'S REAL MAGIC!
HERE'S THE REWARD, BLACKSTONE... TEN THOUSAND BUCKS! THE ORIGINAL REWARD AND THE AMOUNT CROYDON PUT UP TO BLUFF US!
DIVIDE IT AMONG YOUR MEN, CAPTAIN! WE SOLD EVERY SEAT IN THE THEATRE TONIGHT! THAT WILL DO FOR MY SHARE!
THE END

Get 'em now, kids!

Fireworks

for the FOURTH of JULY!

SPECIAL LOW PRICES IF YOU ORDER NOW!

Thrilling Aerial Ass't

Retail $9.00 . . . Your Cost, $4.50

2	3 Shot Repeat Bombs.	.60
5	No. 0 Aerial Flash Bombs	.75
1	9 Shot Repeat Bomb	1.00
2	Buzz Bombs	.50
2	5 Shot Repeat Bombs	1.00
3	No. 3 Whistling Bombs	1.05
2	No. 4 Aerial Flash Bombs	1.00
1	Extra Heavy Aerial Bomb	1.00
3	Whistling Repeat Flash Bombs	.75
2	No. 2 Aerial Flash Bombs	.50
4	Repeat Flash Bombs	.40
3	Whistling Fliers	.45
1	No. 3 Aerial Bomb	FREE
	Regular Retail Price	$9.00

ORDER NOW!

Your Cost Only . . **$4.50**

Spectacular Night Ass't

Retail $10.10 . . . Your Cost, $4.70

24	8" Gold Sparklers	30
2	Floral Star Shells	50
2	Green and Red Fire Torches	50
4	Golden and Flitter Fountains	60
48	10" Gold Sparklers	1.00
4	Catherine Wheels	60
12	20" Gold Sparklers	1.20
2	Triangle Wheels	.70
2	Silver Wheels	.70
8	Assorted Brilliant Cone Effects	2.00
6	Assorted Base Fountains	1.50
1	Cluster of Rockets	.50
1	Pearl Bouquet	FREE
	Regular Retail Price	$10.10

YOU GET

All For Only . . . **$4.70**

Look! Super All Noise!

Retail $11.26 . . . Your Cost, $4.95

72	Kannon Kracker Salutes	3.60
160	Chinese Firecrackers	1.50
1	Whistling Aerial Bomb	.25
1	3 Shot Repeat Bomb	.50
50	3" Flash Salutes	2.50
72	Extra Loud Bulldog Salutes	2.16
5	2 Shot Bombs	.75
50	2" Salutes	1.00
120	Chinese Ladycrackers	FREE
	Regular Retail Price	$11.26

Save More Than ½

YOUR MAIL PRICE . . . $4.95

Use This Coupon

MAIL TODAY!

Gigantic All Noise Ass't

Retail $23.02 . . . Your Cost, $10.00

144	Bulldog Salutes	4.32
50	3" Flash Salutes	1.50
100	2" Flash Salutes	2.00
144	Kannon Kracker Salutes	7.20
1	Extra Heavy Aerial Bomb	1.00
2	9 Shot Repeat Bombs	2.00
2	No. 4 Aerial Bombs	1.00
2	Whistling Repeat Bombs	.50
160	Chinese Firecrackers	1.50
2	Whistling Fliers	.30
2	3 Shot Repeat Bombs	.60
4	Spangle Bombs	.60
1	5 Shot Repeat Bomb	.50
1	No. 3 Aerial Flash Bomb	FREE
	Regular Retail Price	$23.02

YOUR COST

Less Than ½ . . **$10.00**

Combination Holiday Ass't

Retail $13.80 . . . Your Cost, $5.00

72	Blockbuster Salutes	3.50
1	Buzz Bomb	.25
32	8" Gold Sparklers	.80
160	Chinese Firecrackers	1.50
6	Black Snakes	.15
50	2" Salutes	1.00
1	Triangle Wheel	.35
4	Colored Sky Rockets	1.00
350	Chinese Ladycrackers	.50
3	Colored Roman Candles	.75
1	3 Shot Bomb	.30
2	Handle Fountains	FREE
	Plus 12 night items as shown in picture	4.00
	Regular Retail Price	$13.80

USE COUPON

Your Cost Just **$5.00**

Acme Sales Co.

P. O. Box 53 — Station D

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Assortments checked below: (NOTE: Your check or money order for full amount must be enclosed with coupon.)

- ☐ Holiday Ass't — $5.00
- ☐ Super All Noise — $4.95
- ☐ Aerial Ass't — $4.50
- ☐ Gigantic All Noise — $10.00
- ☐ Night Display — $4.75

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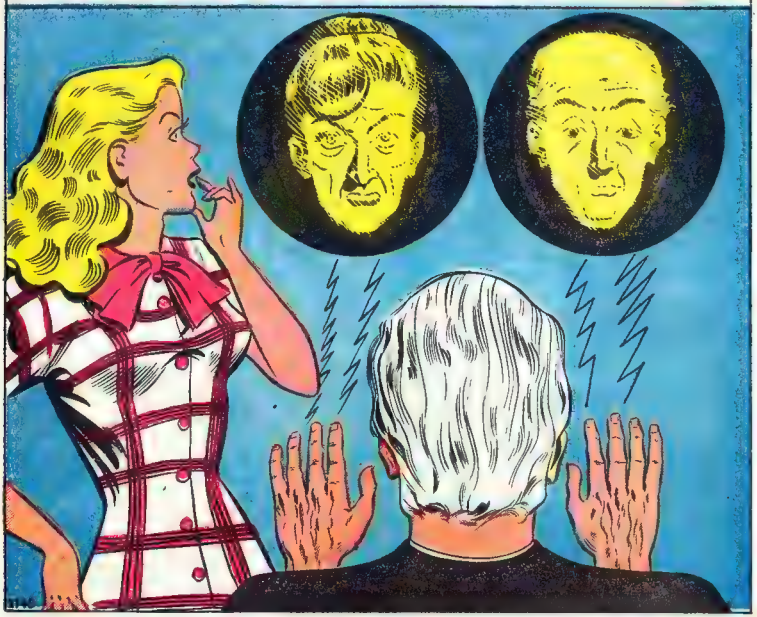
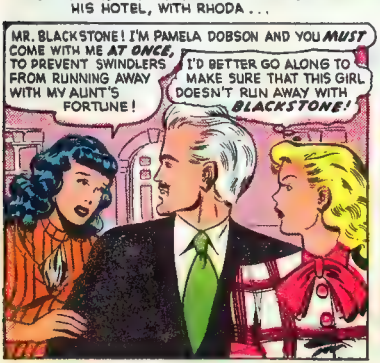
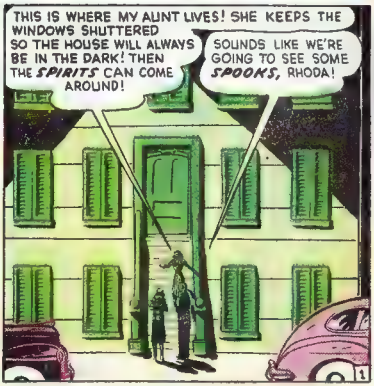
EXPRESS COLLECT—F.O.B., ATLANTA

BLACKSTONE the MAGICIAN fights "THE SPOOK FAKERS!"



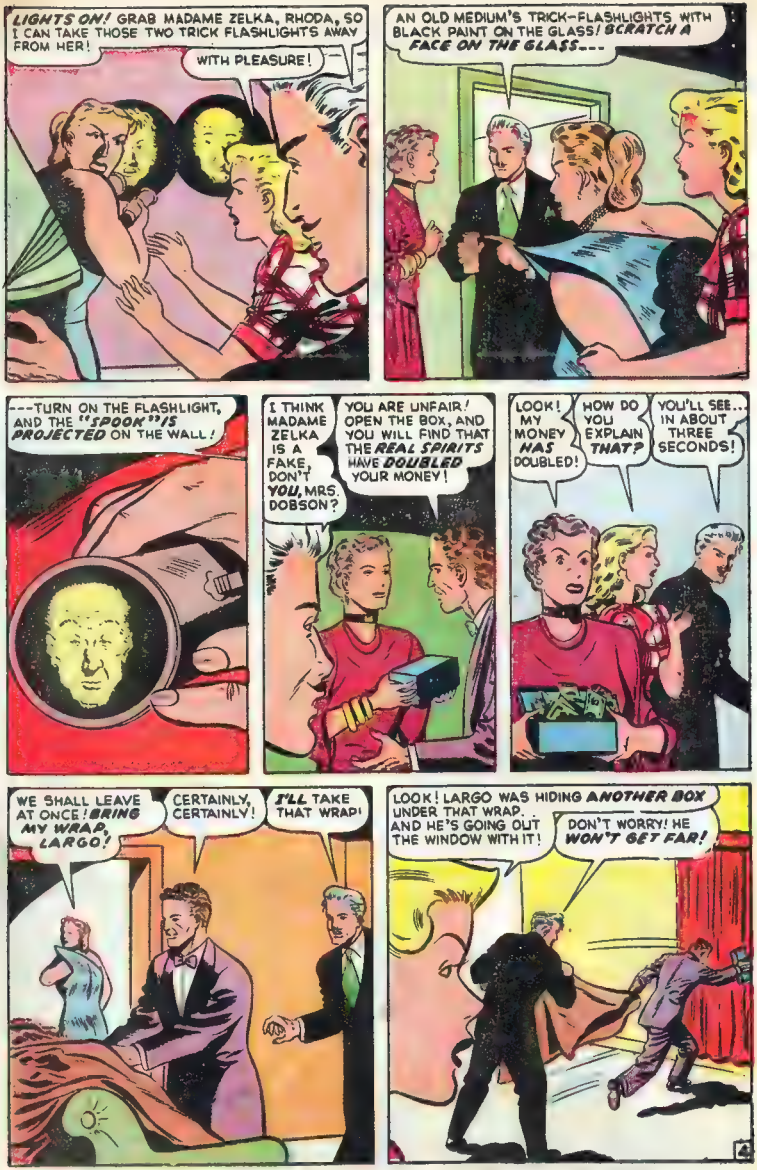
ONE EVENING, AS BLACKSTONE IS COMING FROM HIS HOTEL, WITH RHODA . . .


MR. BLACKSTONE! I'M PAMELA DOBSON AND YOU *MUST* COME WITH ME *AT ONCE*, TO PREVENT SWINDLERS FROM RUNNING AWAY WITH MY AUNT'S FORTUNE!
I'D BETTER GO ALONG TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS GIRL DOESN'T RUN AWAY WITH *BLACKSTONE!*


THIS IS WHERE MY AUNT LIVES! SHE KEEPS THE WINDOWS SHUTTERED SO THE HOUSE WILL ALWAYS BE IN THE DARK! THEN THE *SPIRITS* CAN COME AROUND!
SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO SEE SOME *SPOOKS*, RHODA!
1

AUNTIE, I WANT YOU TO MEET MR. BLACKSTONE AND MISS BRENT!
STEP RIGHT IN! THE SEANCE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, AND THE SPIRITS WILL SOON BE WITH US!
MADAME ZELKA, THE MEDIUM, IS HERE WITH HER MANAGER, PROFESSOR LARGO! THEY TOLD ME TO HAVE $10,000 IN THIS BOX AND THEY WOULD DOUBLE IT!
OH-HO!
BLACKSTONE, THE MAGICIAN, JUST WALKED IN! WE'D BETTER DUCK OUT, ZELKA!
NONSENSE, LARGO! I SHALL CHALLENGE HIM TO PROVE THAT HIS POWERS ARE AS GREAT AS MINE!
THIS IS MADAME ZELKA, WHO HAS PROMISED TO DOUBLE MY MONEY!
I'LL BET $10,000 MYSELF THAT SHE WILL WANT US TO TURN THE LIGHTS OUT!
OF COURSE, THE LIGHTS MUST BE OUT!
BECAUSE SPIRITS WORK ONLY IN THE DARK! AND SINCE YOU DOUBT MY POWERS, PERHAPS YOU CAN CALL ON THE SPIRITS, YOURSELF!
VERY WELL! I'LL DO IT!
TO PERFORM MY TESTS, I NEED A GLASS OF WATER AND SOME PENNIES!
I'LL GET THE GLASS OF WATER!
AND I'LL GET THE PIGGY BANK!
HERE'S THE GLASS OF WATER!
GOOD! I SHALL PUT TWO STRIPS OF PAPER ACROSS IT AND GLUE THEM TO THE EDGES OF THE GLASS! HERE IS ONE! LET ME HAVE THE OTHER, RHODA!
COMING UP!

HERE'RE THE PENNIES!
GOOD! I LAY SOME OF THEM ON THE TABLE BESIDE THE GLASS.
AND NOW WHAT IS TO HAPPEN?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WILL HAPPEN! SOME OF THOSE ARE STEEL PENNIES, THE REST ARE COPPER! WHEN I TURN THE LIGHTS OUT, THE SPIRITS WILL PICK THE STEEL PENNIES AND DROP THEM IN THE GLASS.. BUT FIRST THE SPOOKS WILL DRINK THE WATER OUT OF THE GLASS!
IMPOSSIBLE!
BLACKSTONE PULLS THE LAMP CORD, AND...
I HEAR THE PENNIES CLICKING IN THE GLASS!
AND THE GLASS MUST BE EMPTY, OR THEY WOULDN'T SOUND LIKE THAT!
CLINK!
CLINK!
CLINK!
LIGHTS ON!
THE WATER IS GONE!
AND THE PENNIES ARE IN THE GLASS!
CLICK!
LOOK, MADAME ZELKA! ONLY THE STEEL PENNIES ARE IN THE GLASS! THE COPPER ONES ARE STILL ON THE TABLE! NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BLACKSTONE'S MAGIC?
BLACKSTONE'S MAGIC? BAH!
YOU ARE AN IMPOSTER, BLACKSTONE! MY SPIRITS DRANK THAT WATER AND PICKED OUT THOSE STEEL PENNIES! TURN OUT THE LIGHTS AND I WILL PRODUCE THE SPIRITS TO PROVE IT!
ALL RIGHT, LIGHTS OUT!
LOOK AT THOSE SPIRITS, PAMELA!
I SEE THEM, AUNTIE, BUT THEY CAN'T BE REAL!
3


LIGHTS ON! GRAB MADAME ZELKA, RHODA, SO I CAN TAKE THOSE TWO TRICK FLASHLIGHTS AWAY FROM HER!
WITH PLEASURE!
AN OLD MEDIUM'S TRICK—FLASHLIGHTS WITH BLACK PAINT ON THE GLASS! SCRATCH A FACE ON THE GLASS---
---TURN ON THE FLASHLIGHT, AND THE "SPOON" IS PROJECTED ON THE WALL!
I THINK MADAME ZELKA IS A FAKE, DON'T YOU, MRS. DOBSON?
YOU ARE UNFAIR! OPEN THE BOX, AND YOU WILL FIND THAT THE REAL SPIRITS HAVE DOUBLED YOUR MONEY!
LOOK! MY MONEY HAS DOUBLED!
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
YOU'LL SEE.. IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS!
WE SHALL LEAVE AT ONCE! BRING MY WRAP, LARGO!
CERTAINLY, CERTAINLY!
I'LL TAKE THAT WRAP!
LOOK! LARGO WAS HIDING ANOTHER BOX UNDER THAT WRAP.. AND HE'S GOING OUT THE WINDOW WITH IT!
DON'T WORRY! HE WON'T GET FAR!
4

BOOP!
LARGO FORGOT THE WINDOW WAS SHUTTERED! AND LOOK! THAT BOX HAS MONEY IN IT TOO!
OF COURSE! IT'S THE ORIGINAL BOX WITH THE $10,000 THAT MRS. DOBSON PUT IN IT!
HERE'S YOUR MONEY BACK, MRS. DOBSON! PROFESSOR LARGO SWITCHED BOXES THROUGH THIS SCREEN WHILE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT! THAT STUFF IS COUNTERFEIT! HE WANTED YOU TO THINK YOUR MONEY HAD DOUBLED SO HE AND ZELKA COULD GET AWAY!
LATER...
NOW THAT THE EXCITEMENT IS OVER, WILL YOU SHOW ME NOW THE WATER VANISHED FROM A GLASS LIKE THIS?
EASILY ENOUGH! I HAD A DRINKING STRAW IN MY POCKET! AND ALL I DID WAS USE IT IN THE DARK!
SAY—THAT IS A FOOLER! BUT HOW DID YOU PICK STEEL PENNIES FROM THE COPPER ONES?
THAT'S A NEAT STUNT TOO! IN ANOTHER POCKET, I HAD THIS LITTLE MAGNET! IT PICKED UP THE STEEL PENNIES FOR ME... LIKE THIS!
SO THERE ARE A COUPLE OF TRICKS THAT ANYONE CAN DO... BUT ALWAYS IN THE DARK!
I'M GOING TO TRY THOSE, MYSELF!
SO AM I! AND I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW BLACKSTONE FOOLED MADAME ZELKA WITH THEM!
THE END
5

STAMP NEWS

By KENT B. STILES

In these columns recently we discussed the 1948 stamp-issuing program of the Post Office Department. We mentioned the Carver, California Gold Centennial, Francis Scott Key, Gold Star Mothers and Wisconsin Statehood Centenary stamps as either already issued or definitely coming, and we concluded: "Undoubtedly other stamps will be issued during 1948."

One of these news morsels as announced by Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson was that a 3-cent maroon stamp would appear on April 7 to mark the 150th anniversary of the organizing of Mississippi Territory, in 1798. Most of you collectors have likely obtained this sesquicentennial commemorative by now. It bears a map of the Territory and a portrait of Winthrop Sargent (1753-1820), who in 1798-1801 was the Territory's first Governor. Soldier, surveyor, Indian fighter and writer,

One of these stamps will bear a likeness of Joel Chandler Harris (1848-1908), creator of the fictional and immortal "Uncle Remus" character of the South. It was on Dec. 9, 1848, that the Georgia journalist and poet was born, and the stamp is scheduled for release on this coming Dec. 9, this making it a centenary item.

The second of the three will present a portrait of Will Rogers (1879-1935), the humorist, political commentator, writer and actor who was killed in an airplane crash in Alaska.

The third will pay tribute to four Army Chaplains who perished heroically when the transport Dorchester was torpedoed in the North Atlantic in February of 1943. They were the Rev. George L. Fox, a Methodist; Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi; the Rev. Clark V. Poling, a Baptist; the Rev. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic. The four surrendered their life jackets to soldiers and were seen standing on deck, with arms locked, and praying, when the ship went down.

GUATEMALA "QUETZAL BIRD" TRIANGLE—30 OTHERS LOT 31 DIFF. includes scarce Tiny TRIANGLE, also Samoan Islands, Queensland, Gold Coast, Ivory Coast, Midget Country Airmail, South Seas, Jungle others—ALL 5c Approvals
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6850 S. DIVISION AVE., GRAND RAPIDS 6, MICH.

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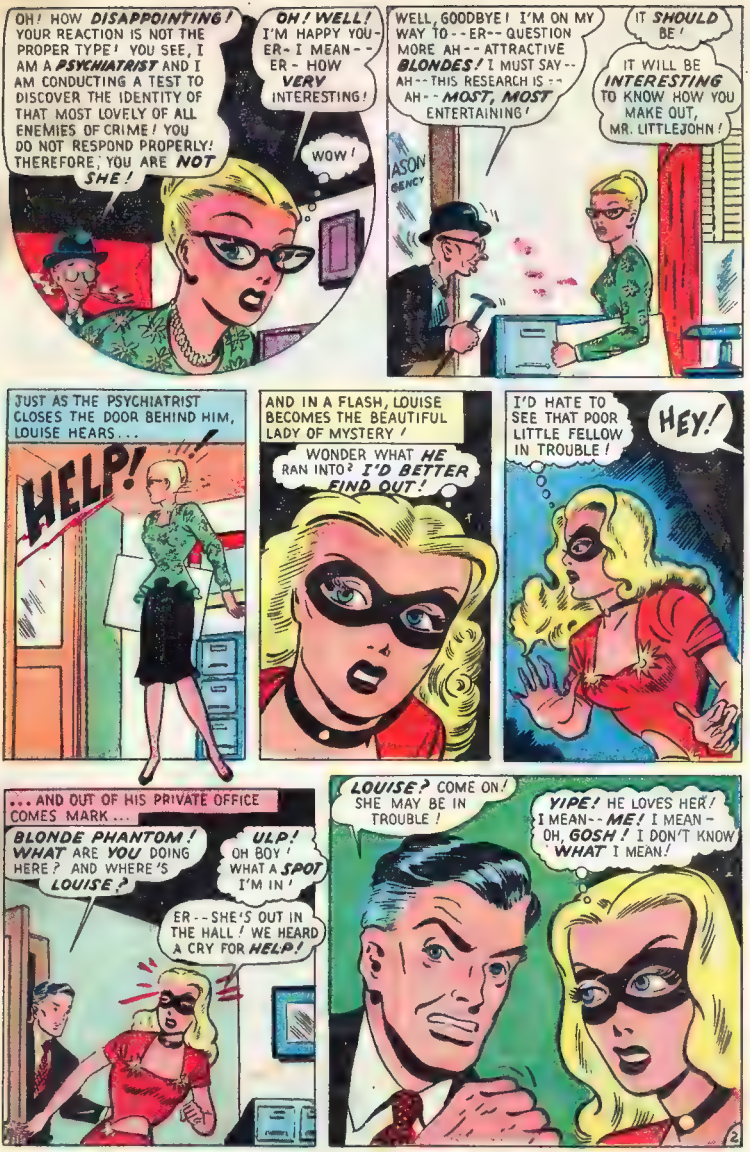
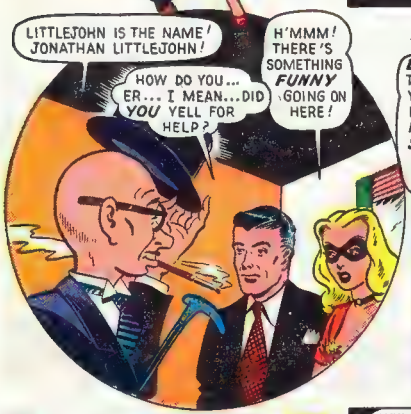
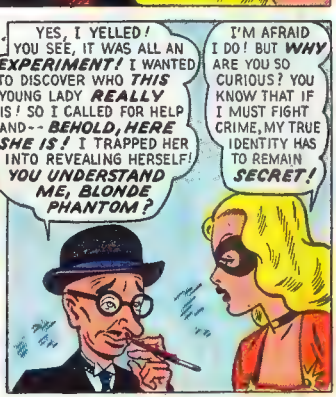
BLONDE PHANTOM
"IDENTITY: KNOWN!"
AHA! YOUR SECRET IS NO LONGER YOUR OWN! I SHARE IT, TOO!
THAT'S IT, READER! AT LONG LAST SOMEONE KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE BLONDE PHANTOM'S IDENTITY! BUT... WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? THAT IS THE THRILL THAT AWAITS YOU IN THIS STORY OF THE LONELY CRIME FIGHTER'S DILEMMA!
3268
HOW DO YOU DO? MY NAME IS LITTLEJOHN! JONATHAN J. LITTLEJOHN!
THE PLACE IS THE OFFICE OF MARK MASON, AND THIS ODD LITTLE MAN MAKES AN UNUSUAL STATEMENT TO LOUISE, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S SECRETARY!
MISS! YOU ARE THE BLONDE PHANTOM!
W-WHAT?


OH! HOW DISAPPOINTING! YOUR REACTION IS NOT THE PROPER TYPE! YOU SEE, I AM A PSYCHIATRIST AND I AM CONDUCTING A TEST TO DISCOVER THE IDENTITY OF THAT MOST LOVELY OF ALL ENEMIES OF CRIME! YOU DO NOT RESPOND PROPERLY! THEREFORE, YOU ARE NOT SHE!
OH! WELL! I'M HAPPY YOU-ER-I MEAN--ER-HOW VERY INTERESTING!
WOW!
WELL, GOODBYE! I'M ON MY WAY TO--ER--QUESTION MORE AH--ATTRACTIVE BLONDES! I MUST SAY--AH--THIS RESEARCH IS--AH--MOST, MOST ENTERTAINING!
IT SHOULD BE!
IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO KNOW HOW YOU MAKE OUT, MR. LITTLEJOHN!
JUST AS THE PSYCHIATRIST CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM, LOUISE HEARS...
HELP!
AND IN A FLASH, LOUISE BECOMES THE BEAUTIFUL LADY OF MYSTERY!
WONDER WHAT HE RAN INTO? I'D BETTER FIND OUT!
I'D HATE TO SEE THAT POOR LITTLE FELLOW IN TROUBLE!
HEY!
...AND OUT OF HIS PRIVATE OFFICE COMES MARK...
BLONDE PHANTOM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND WHERE'S LOUISE?
ULP! OH BOY! WHAT A SPOT I'M IN!
ER--SHE'S OUT IN THE HALL! WE HEARD A CRY FOR HELP!
LOUISE? COME ON! SHE MAY BE IN TROUBLE!
YIPE! HE LOVES HER! I MEAN--ME! I MEAN--OH, GOSH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
2

OUT IN THE HALL...
WHERE IS SHE?
ER--THE CRY CAME FROM THE HALL, BUT THERE'S NOBODY HERE!

OH, YES, THERE IS!
HUH?
WHO'S THAT?

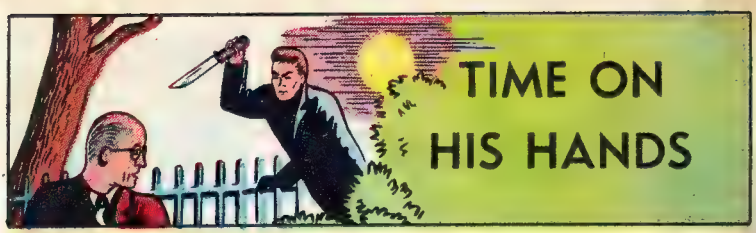

LITTLEJOHN IS THE NAME! JONATHAN LITTLEJOHN!
HOW DO YOU... ER... I MEAN... DID YOU YELL FOR HELP?
H'MMM! THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON HERE!


YES, I YELLED! YOU SEE, IT WAS ALL AN EXPERIMENT! I WANTED TO DISCOVER WHO THIS YOUNG LADY REALLY IS! SO I CALLED FOR HELP AND--BEHOLD, HERE SHE IS! I TRAPPED HER INTO REVEALING HERSELF! YOU UNDERSTAND ME, BLONDE PHANTOM?
I'M AFRAID I DO! BUT WHY ARE YOU SO CURIOUS? YOU KNOW THAT IF I MUST FIGHT CRIME, MY TRUE IDENTITY HAS TO REMAIN SECRET!

BECAUSE I AM GOING TO COMMIT SOME VERY HIGH-CLASS ROBBERIES! IF YOU FIGHT ME, I SHALL REVEAL WHO YOU ARE! GOODBYE, FOR NOW!

WHY, THE LITTLE PIP-SQUEAK! I'LL BUST HIM IN TWO!
MARK! DON'T! I'VE GOT TO HANDLE THIS MY OWN WAY!

OKAY! I'LL LOOK FOR LOUISE! IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HER...
HE LOVES LOUISE! AM I HAPPY FOR HER!--I MEAN--ME!
WHOOPS! THERE GOES MY FRIEND INTO A JEWELRY STORE! DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS, I KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO!
JEWELRY
THIS IS A HOLD-UP! I MUST DISTURB YOU FOR THAT TRAYFUL OF DIAMONDS!
AND I'VE GOT TO DISTURB YOU, MR. LITTLE-JOHN!
BLONDE PHANTOM! DON'T, OR I'LL TALK! ULP!
YOU'LL WHAT? WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO DO A LOT OF TALKING! ALL TO YOURSELF!
AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...
WELL! WELL! LITTLE JONATHAN J. LITTLEJOHN! THIS BIRD ESCAPED FROM THE STATE INSANE ASYLUM! HE'S A MANIAC!
I KNOW WHO THE BLONDE PHANTOM IS! SHE'S MARK MASON'S SECRETARY! I KNOW! I KNOW!
SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU? HE THINKS HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE! CRAZY AS A LOON, I TELL YOU!
WHEW!
THE BLONDE PHANTOM CHANGES TO LOUISE AGAIN AND RUSHES BACK TO THE OFFICE...
MARK MUST BE GOING CRAZY LOOKING FOR ME! HE REALLY LOVES ME! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW HAPPY HE'LL LOOK WHEN HE SEES I'M ALL RIGHT!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? BOY YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE BLONDE PHANTOM! WAS SHE LOVELY! WAS SHE GORGEOUS! WAS SHE---
...WAS SHE BURNING UP!
THE END



TIME ON HIS HANDS

JAKE WELSH was a punctual man. That is, to say, he was always on time to the minute. Time was his God and he bowed down to it, mentally, of course, at frequent intervals throughout the day and night.

He arose promptly at six, at six-ten he was exercising before his bedroom window. Breakfast at six-fifty in the little drug-store across the street, and he was at work, hanging up his coat precisely at seven-thirty. This routine had never varied in the ten years he had worked as private secretary to his wealthy and aged uncle, of whom Jake was the sole heir.

Now, although Jake was a conscientious worker and always on time, his Uncle was a meager and miserly man. He paid Jake a salary that a shoe-shine boy would have scoffed at accepting. Jake had to take it because he wanted to inherit the tremendous fortune. There were many scrapes and bows of obeisance which he had to tender rich Uncle Julius. Also many words of advice to be listened to with a seemingly attentive ear, although it may be truthfully said that Jake actually did not hear a word that was spoken.

"Jake", Uncle Julius would say, "the way to success is to save money. Never buy anything you don't need to live on. Luxuries are for fools who have nothing better to do than throw money away!"

"Yes, Uncle Julius," Jake would reply nodding his head wisely. For in Jake's case that was absolutely correct. He could never spend any money foolishly, or otherwise. Because he never had any.

It was during these talks that the red fire, the slow smouldering of deathless hatred for Uncle Julius was born in Jake's brain. He began to wish for nothing more than Uncle Julius to die. He prayed for it; he watched his uncle like a hawk, trying to detect some weakness in his apparently indestructible health. The faintest sniffle, the hint of a cough would be enough to make Jake unusually attentive to his uncle.

"Not catching a cold, are you?" he would ask anxiously.

"Bosh, my boy! Never felt better in my life. Not enough fresh air in this room, that's all." And Uncle Julius would get up and open a window.

Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, it went on. Endlessly. And Jake finally became convinced of one thing: Uncle Julius wasn't going to die, not anytime soon, not a natural death, anyway. Maybe he would even outlive his nephew, and Jake writhed inwardly as he thought of that possibility.

Time was beginning to catch up with Jake—he was thirty-five now, and the years were going by with increased tempo. Soon he would be forty, then fifty, and finally . . . what? Jake would be dead—the poorest corpse in the cemetery, and Uncle Julius would go on living, No, there had to be a way of hastening Uncle Julius's death.

Thus was the idea of murder spawned in the brain of Jake Welsh.

He planned it very carefully. Jake knew that simplicity was always the essence of greatness . . . so he arranged a simple little scheme. One that he felt the police would suspect, but would be unable to prove. And if they could not prove anything, then he was safe, utterly safe and untouchable. It didn't matter to him what they thought.

It was always the habit of Uncle Julius to take a walk before bedtime. Every evening, precisely at seven he left the house, walked three blocks,

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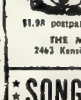

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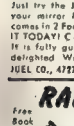

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turned across the street, and headed home once more. The entire walk took Julius approximately twenty minutes. Jake knew this because he had walked with Uncle Julius many times, and he had timed it. And on the block one street over was a theater which Jake was in the habit of attending. All of which added up to a splendid plan—and murder!

The night finally arrived, and Jake went to the picture show. He handed Miss Hawkins, the cashier, a dollar bill and she shoved some change back at him through the narrow aperture.

"Oh," he said, "didn't I give you a five?"

She looked surprised. "No, Mr. Welsh, I'm sure it was a one. See, here!"

He apologized profusely, pocketed the change and entered the theater, smiling to himself. Well done! She would certainly remember him now. The main thread of his alibi was established.

He went upstairs in the balcony and seated himself near one of the outside exits. The picture which was playing was a meaningless blur to him. It didn't really matter, however, as he had seen it the night before and knew the story by heart. Another part of his alibi.

At six-fifty he slipped noiselessly from his seat, opened the exit door and slid quietly onto the fire-escape. He knelt and placed a small wedge-shaped piece of wood under the door, leaving it open slightly so he could re-enter. Then he went down the escape.

Once in the alley by the side of the theater, he turned and scaled a wall at the back end, crossed a back yard, and at seven o'clock he was hidden behind a large clump of bushes close to the sidewalk. He waited, feeling nervously in his pocket for the large hunting knife he had stolen from the little boy who lived down the block. It could never possibly be traced to him.

He waited, hardly daring to breathe.

Then he heard footsteps. It was Uncle Julius. Jake recognized the slow mechanical tread, the step of one who is sure of himself—and unafraid.

As Uncle Julius passed, Jake eased out from behind the bushes. It may have been a slight noise of Jake's slithering step, it may have been a sixth sense. At any rate, Julius heard him and wheeled about as Jake struck with the knife. Jake swept down with the knife and Uncle Julius swept up with the walking-cane he carried. The blow hit Jake on the wrist deflecting the knife. A sharp pain shot through his arm, momentarily stunning him. But Jake was too strong; Uncle Julius, too old and weak. Jake recovered swiftly and, with a series of quick, savage thrusts, sent Uncle Julius reeling to the pavement in a welter of blood.

Then Jake turned around, recrossed the yard, scaled the wall, leaped for the fire-escape, pulled himself up, and climbed up to the exit door. He threw the knife across the alley to the top of the adjoining building. He entered the theater as noiselessly as he had left, picking up the small wooden wedge. Once inside, he moved to the ground floor leaving the wedge under the seat he vacated. He sat in the dark, staring at the screen, not seeing anything, trying to compose himself.

An hour later he left the theater for home.

They were waiting for him at his door.

A few minutes questioning and he felt better. His alibi was weak, but they couldn't prove anything, not a thing. He smiled.

Then a hawk-eyed cop asked him a question, "What time is it, Mr. Welsh?"

He swept up his arm, pulled back the sleeve. "It's it's . . ."

Jake stopped, his brain convulsed with horror.

"Ever see this before?" The cop held out his hand. In the palm, clear and bright and unbroken, was the crystal of Jake's watch. Uncle Julius had knocked it out with the blow from the cane and in the darkness of the theater, Jake had not noticed it. The hands of the watch had stopped at the moment he had killed his Uncle!

He felt the walls close in as the police grabbed him from either side and held him tightly . . .

Six weeks later, sitting on a hard bench in a cell, Jake was looking at the watch. The crystal was still missing. He muttered, "Betrayed. Time. I don't understand."

The watch ticked on . . and on. Fifteen minutes and ten seconds, fifteen minutes and ten seconds to go. Then time and eternity and the electric chair would claim Jake Welsh for their own.

THE END

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A FULL-LENGTH MYSTERY THRILLER

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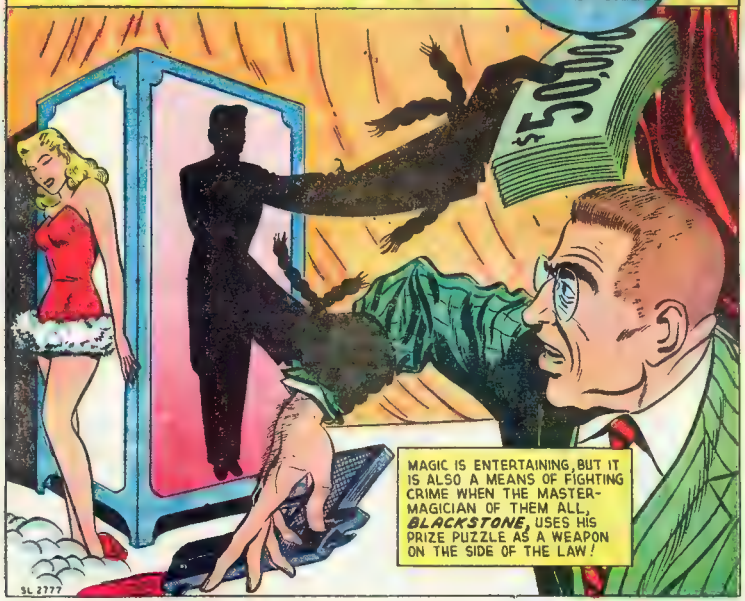
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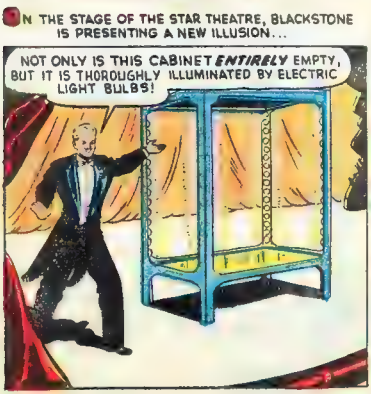
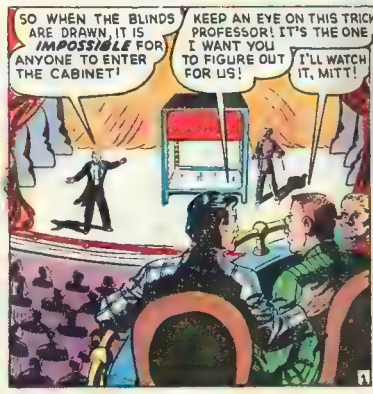
MAGIC IS ENTERTAINING, BUT IT IS ALSO A MEANS OF FIGHTING CRIME WHEN THE MASTER-MAGICIAN OF THEM ALL, BLACKSTONE, USES HIS PRIZE PUZZLE AS A WEAPON ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW!
SL 2777


ON THE STAGE OF THE STAR THEATRE, BLACKSTONE IS PRESENTING A NEW ILLUSION...
NOT ONLY IS THIS CABINET ENTIRELY EMPTY, BUT IT IS THOROUGHLY ILLUMINATED BY ELECTRIC LIGHT BULBS!


SO WHEN THE BLINDS ARE DRAWN, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO ENTER THE CABINET!
KEEP AN EYE ON THIS TRICK, PROFESSOR! IT'S THE ONE I WANT YOU TO FIGURE OUT FOR US!
I'LL WATCH IT, MITT!
1

NOW AT MY COMMAND, A SHADOWY VISITOR APPEARS FROM NOWHERE, AND WITH A SHOT FROM THIS PISTOL...
A SHADE ROLLS UP, REVEALING...
...THE MYSTERIOUS SHADOW BECOMES A LIVING LADY!
BANG
ZOOM!
NOW THAT THE SHOW'S OVER, TELL US HOW YOU THINK HE WORKED OUT THE TRICK!
SORRY, MITT! I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!
NO IDEAS, HUH? WHY DO YOU THINK WE'RE PAYING YOU? WE WANT SOME WAY FOR JOJO TO GET INTO PLACES WITHOUT ANYBODY KNOWING IT... LIKE THAT OFFICE THERE!
YEAH! THEN I COULD CRACK THE MANAGER'S SAFE AND GET THE DOUGH THAT'S IN IT!
HA! I HAVE A PLAN! WE WILL MEET THIS CHALLENGE AND INSIST THAT BLACKSTONE ATTEMPT THE ESCAPE INSIDE THE SHADOW CABINET! THEN WE'LL KNOW HE'S STILL THERE! COME, WE'LL GO TO MY LABORATORY!
$50,000.00 CHALLENGE! BLACKSTONE OFFERS THIS REWARD TO ANYONE WHO CAN BIND HIM WITH ROPES FROM WHICH HE CAN NOT ESCAPE WITHIN TEN MINUTES!
HERE IS THE ROPE WE'LL USE! EXAMINE IT WHILE I WRITE TO BLACKSTONE, SAYING I ACCEPT HIS CHALLENGE!
YOUR IDEA IS GOOD, PROFESSOR! NOBODY IS SMART ENOUGH TO SUSPECT THAT WE'LL BE ROBBING THE OFFICE WHILE HE'S TIED UP!
PROF. VARNE Laboratory
BUT SUPPOSE HE DOES ESCAPE IN LESS THAN TEN MINUTES?
BLACKSTONE CAN'T ESCAPE! CUT A PIECE OF THAT ROPE AND YOU WILL FIND IT CONTAINS A CORE OF SOLDERING WIRE WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK OR UNTIE!

THE NEXT DAY...
ANY INTERESTING MAIL, TODAY?
I'LL SAY THERE IS, RHODA! A PROFESSOR NAMED VARNE HAS ACCEPTED MY $50,000 CHALLENGE! WE'LL GO OVER AND SEE THE THEATRE MANAGER RIGHT AWAY!
HMM.. SO VARNE WANTS YOU TO DO THE ESCAPE AFTER THE LAST SHOW TONIGHT! THIS IS A BAD NIGHT BECAUSE ALL THE MONEY FROM THIS WEEK WILL BE IN THAT SAFE, SO WE DON'T LIKE TO KEEP THE THEATRE OPEN TOO LATE!
DON'T WORRY! BLACKSTONE ALWAYS ESCAPES IN LESS THAN TEN MINUTES!
SILLY OF THE MANAGER TO BE SO WORRIED, ISN'T IT?
I'M NOT SO SURE, RHODA! MAYBE PROFESSOR VARNE IS UP TO SOME TRICKERY OF HIS OWN!
Stage ENTRANCE
BUT WHAT SORT OF TRICKERY?
IN HIS LETTER, VARNE STATED THAT I MUST MAKE MY ESCAPE WHILE IN THIS CABINET! EVIDENTLY HE WANTS TO KEEP TRACK OF ME! I'LL FIGURE A WAY TO FOOL VARNE! MEANWHILE, YOU LEARN WHAT YOU CAN ABOUT HIM!
LATER THAT DAY, BLACKSTONE ACTS ON INFORMATION OBTAINED BY RHODA...
PROFESSOR VARNE HAS HIS LABORATORY UP THERE ON THE THIRD FLOOR!
GOOD! IT'S NEARLY DARK! I'LL GO UP AND LOOK OVER THAT LAB! I'LL MEET YOU LATER!
MEANWHILE...
THE THEATRE MANAGER PHONED TO SAY BLACKSTONE ACCEPTS MY CHALLENGE!
GREAT! YOU CAN WATCH THE SHADOW CABINET, PROFESSOR, TO MAKE SURE BLACKSTONE IS IN IT! WE'LL SWING THAT SAFE RIGHT OUT THE OFFICE WINDOW!
WHAT'S THAT BELL — THE PHONE?
NO! IT'S AN ALARM BELL! IT MEANS SOMEBODY IS IN THE LABORATORY!
BONG!
BONG!

AN *ALARM!* I'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE! I'LL USE THIS ROPE TO LET MYSELF OUT THE WINDOW! IT'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO BEAR MY WEIGHT BUT IT WILL BREAK MY FALL BEFORE IT SNAPS!

BONG! BONG!

THIS ROPE IS TEN TIMES STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT! I'LL LET GO WHEN I REACH THE GROUND AND *NO ONE* WILL GUESS *HOW* I GOT OUT!

WHEN BLACKSTONE RELEASES THE ROPE FROM THE GROUND, THE COIL OF ROPE ROLLS BACK INTO THE ROOM, WINDING ITSELF AS IT DOES...

NOBODY HERE! MUST HAVE BEEN A FALSE ALARM!

YEAH... NOBODY COULD HAVE GONE OUT THAT WINDOW! IT'S *TOO* BIG A DROP TO THE GROUND!

BACK AT THE THEATRE.

HURRY! YOU *JUST* HAVE TIME TO GET READY FOR THE SHOW: DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING?

PLENTY! I THINK I CAN HANDLE *EVERY* ANGLE OF VARNE'S GAME!

EXIT

AND SO, WITH THE FINAL CURTAIN..

TONIGHT, A GENTLEMAN NAMED PROFESSOR VARNE HAS ACCEPTED MY $50,000 CHALLENGE! ARE YOU HERE, PROFESSOR?

RIGHT HERE! ROPES AND ALL! ANYBODY IN THE AUDIENCE IS WELCOME TO HELP ME TIE YOU, BLACKSTONE!

YOU'RE *SATISFIED* THE KNOTS ARE TIGHT ENOUGH, PROFESSOR?

ABSOLUTELY! PUT HIM IN THE CABINET, MEN, AND HE CAN *TRY* TO ESCAPE!

BOUND IN THE SHADOW CABINET, BLACKSTONE IS READY TO BEGIN HIS SENSATIONAL ESCAPE!
THREE MINUTES GONE ALREADY, AND NO ACTION FROM BLACKSTONE! MAYBE YOU'LL WIN THAT $50,000, PROFESSOR!
MAYBE! HEH-HEH!
MEANWHILE . .
HOW'S IT GOING, MITT?
EVERYBODY IS GAWKING AT THE CABINET, INCLUDING THE MANAGER! LET'S HOP UPSTAIRS, JOJO, AND GET BUSY WITH THAT SAFE!
SAY... THIS IS NEAT!
READY! SWING!
O.K.! LET'S SKIP! NEXT STOP—THE OLD MILL DOWN BY THE CREEK!
THINK WE'LL HAVE TO BLOW OPEN THAT BOX, JOJO?
NAW! I CAN FIGURE THE COMBO EASY, MITT, IN A QUIET PLACE LIKE THIS WHERE I WON'T GET NERVOUS!
THAT DOES IT!
OPEN IT UP! I'LL BET WE'LL FIND MORE THAN THE FIFTY GRAND THAT THE PROFESSOR CAN TRY TO COLLECT FROM BLACKSTONE!
5

THEN.
HEY!
IT'S BLACKSTONE! GET HIM!
NOW, FOR A QUICK DUCK BEHIND THE DOOR OF THAT SAFE!
..LIKE THIS!
PING!
PING!
HERE'S SOMETHING NICE AND HANDY! THE GUN THAT MITT DROPPED!
PING!
PING!
NOW THAT YOUR GUNS ARE EMPTY, I'LL TAKE OVER! PICK UP YOUR PLAYMATES AND BRING THEM ALONG IN THE TRUCK!
A CARLOAD OF CROOKS, CHIEF! PARK THEM IN JAIL AND WE'LL GO OVER TO THE THEATRE AND PICK UP ANOTHER!
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, BLACKSTONE!
HALF AN HOUR HAS ELAPSED AND BLACKSTONE HAS NOT ESCAPED! I SHALL RELEASE HIM AND DEMAND THE $50,000 REWARD!
THERE'S OUR MAN, CHIEF! I'LL HANDLE HIM!

BLACKSTONE! BUT.. BUT YOU'RE STILL IN THE CABINET!
HARDLY, PROFESSOR! I'LL ROLL UP THE CURTAIN AND SHOW YOU WHAT IS IN THERE!
ONLY YOUR ROPES, PROFESSOR! NOTHING MORE!
COME ALONG, PROFESSOR! YOUR SHOW IS OVER!
BEFORE YOU TAKE THE PROFESSOR AWAY, CHIEF, I WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW I SPOILED HIS GAME! I'LL HAVE RHODA TIE ME AGAIN WITH ONE OF THOSE ROPES!
BELIEVE ME, I'M STILL BAFFLED!
I TESTED THIS TYPE OF ROPE IN THE PROFESSOR'S LABORATORY! ITS STRENGTH PROVED IT CONTAINED SOLDERING WIRE! SO, HERE IN THE CABINET, I PRESSED THE ROPE AGAINST A LIGHT BULB!
SZZZZZZ!
...AND THE HEAT MELTED THE SOLDER, SO THAT THE TRICK ROPE SNAPPED, LIKE THIS!
BUT, YOU WERE STILL IN THE CABINET! I SAW YOUR SHADOW ON THE FRONT BLIND!
WHAT YOU SAW WAS A FAKE SHADOW THAT I PAINTED ON THE BLIND BEFORE THE SHOW! WHILE YOU WATCHED IT, I WENT OUT THE BACK OF THE CABINET, UP TO THE OFFICE, AND GOT INTO THE SAFE BEFORE YOUR PALS CAME TO STEAL IT!
COME ALONG, PROFESSOR!
WONDERFUL WORK, BLACKSTONE! BUT WHERE IS ALL THE MONEY THAT WAS IN THE SAFE?
YOU'LL FIND IT IN THE TOP DRAWER OF YOUR DESK, MR. MANAGER... THE ONE PLACE CROOKS WOULD NEVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR IT!
THE END
7

Reducing Specialist Says:

"Thanks to the Spot Reducer, I lost four inches around the hips and three inches around the waistline. It's amazing." Mary Martin, Long Island City, N. Y.

LOSE WEIGHT

where it shows most

REDUCE

most any part of the body with

SPOT REDUCER

Miss Nancy Mace, Bronx, N. Y., says: "I went from size 16 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."

Like a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steam baths, drugs or laxatives.

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, buttocks, etc. The same method used by many stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The "Spot Reducer" can be used in your spare time in your own room. It breaks down fatty tissues, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased, awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat. Two weeks after using the "Spot Reducer," look in the mirror and see a more glamorous, better, firmer, slimmer figure that will delight you. You have nothing to lose but weight for the "Spot Reducer" is sold on a money-back guarantee.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE With a 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.

Marie Hammet, New York, N. Y., says: "I used to wear a size 20 dress, now I wear size 14, thanks to the Spot Reducer. It was fun and I enjoyed it."

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Send me at once, for $2 cash, check or money order, the "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body, Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.

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AMERICAN MERCHANDISING COMPANY, INC., 9 Madison Avenue, Montgomery 4, Ala. Dept. IR5C

YOUR SAVINGS MOUNT UP LIKE MAGIC BECAUSE YOU

Make Money With Your Own JUKE BOX BANK

A Real Money-Maker For You . . . Because

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WILL HELP YOU SAVE, JUST TO SEE HOW IT WORKS!

You'll see those nickels and dimes rapidly add up to mighty dollar bills with this new Juke Box Bank that's a gay plastic reproduction of the tuneful Juke Box down at the corner soda fountain. Bring it out at parties or when company comes to call. The coins and currency will really pour in, because **everyone** wants to see it light up electrically and flash its bit of advice: "It's Wise to Be Thrifty"—to which we might add: it's **easy** to be thrifty when you have an attention-getting, fun-producing Juke Box Bank.

SEND NO MONEY: send only your name and address. Then pay postman only $1.98 plus postage. Or send cash and **we** pay postage. If you are not delighted, return within 10 days for speedy, cheerful refund.

$1.98 Post Paid Complete With Battery & Bulb

Put Your Coins in Slot and Press-in!

JUKE BOX BLAZES WITH LIGHT AS IT FLASHES:

It's Wise to be Thrifty

AMERICAN MERCHANDISING COMPANY, 9 Madison Avenue, Montgomery 4, Ala. Dept. JB20

BAD SKIN?

Stop Worrying About Pimples, Blackheads and Other Externally Caused Skin Troubles

Try Skin Doctor's Amazing Simple Directions and Be Thrilled with the Difference— Often So Much

CLEARER IN JUST ONE SHORT WEEK

Have you ever stopped to realize that the leading screen stars whom you admire, as well as the beautiful models who have lovely, soft white skin, were all born *just like you* with a lovely smooth skin?

The truth is that many girls and women do not give their skin a chance to show off the natural beauty that lies hidden underneath those externally caused pimples, blackheads and irritations. For almost anyone can have the natural, normal complexion which is in itself beauty. All you have to do is follow a few amazingly simple rules.

Many women shut themselves out of the thrills of life—dates, romance, popularity, social and business success—only because sheer neglect has robbed them of the good looks, poise and feminine self-assurance which could so easily be theirs. Yes, everybody looks at your face. The beautiful complexion, which is yours for the asking, is like a permanent card of admission to all the good things of life that every woman craves. And it really can be yours—take my word for it!—no matter how discouraged you may be this very minute about those externally caused skin miseries.

Medical science gives us the truth about a lovely skin. There are small specks of dust and dirt in the air all the time. When these get into the open pores in your skin, they can in time cause the pores to become larger and more susceptible to dirt particles, dust and infection. These open pores begin to form blackheads which become infected and bring you the humiliation of pimples, blackheads or other blemishes. When you neglect your skin by not giving it the necessary care, you leave yourself wide open to externally caused skin miseries. Yet proper attention with the double Viderm treatment may mean the difference between enjoying the confidence a fine skin gives you or the embarrassment of an ugly, unbeautiful skin that makes you want to hide your face.

The double Viderm treatment is a formula prescribed by a skin doctor with amazing success, and costs you only a few cents daily. This treatment consists of two jars. One contains Viderm Skin Cleanser, a jelly-like formula which penetrates and acts as an antiseptic upon your pores. After you use this special Viderm Skin Cleanser, you simply apply the Viderm Fortified Medicated Skin Cream. You rub this in, leaving an almost invisible protective covering for the surface of your skin.

This double treatment has worked wonders for so many cases of external skin troubles that it may help you, too —*in fact, your money will be refunded if it doesn't*. Use it for only ten days. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It is a guaranteed treatment. Enjoy it. Your dream of a clear, smooth complexion may come true in ten days or less.

Use your double Viderm treatment every day until your skin is smoother and clearer. Then use it only once a week to remove stale make-up and dirt specks that infect your pores, as well as to aid in healing external irritations. Remember that when you help prevent blackheads, you also help to prevent externally caused skin miseries and pimples.

Incidentally, while your two jars and the doctor's directions are on their way to you, be sure to wash your face as often as necessary. First use warm water, then cleanse with water as cold as you can stand it, in order to freshen, stimulate and help close your pores. After you receive everything, read your directions carefully. Then go right to it and let these two fine formulas help your dreams of a beautiful skin come true.

Just mail your name and address to Betty Memphis, care of the New York Skin Laboratory, 206 Division Street, Dept 370 New York 2, N. Y. By return mail you will receive the doctor's directions, and both jars, packed in a safety-sealed carton. On delivery, pay two dollars plus postage. If you wish, you can save the postage fee by mailing the two dollars with your letter. If you are in any way dissatisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. To give you an idea of how fully tested and proven the Viderm double treatment is, it may interest you to know that, up to this month, over two hundred and twelve thousand women have ordered it on my recommendation. If you could only see the thousands of happy, grateful letters that have come to me as a result, you would know the joy this simple treatment can bring. And, think of it!—the treatment must work for *you*, or it doesn't cost you a cent.

Nothing like it!

GET YOUR FREE MOVIE STAR PICTURES

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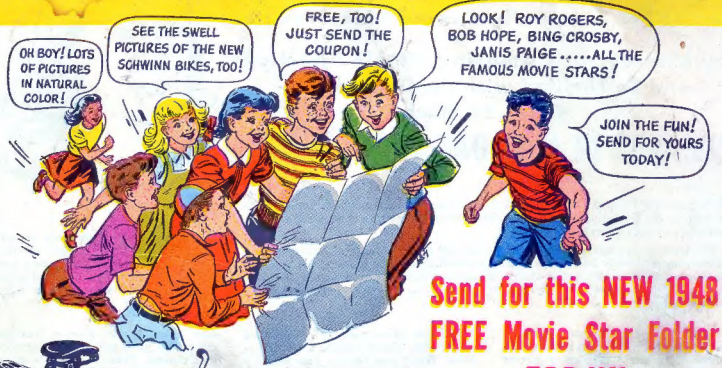
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